

Message Text

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION - U.S. OFFICIAL ON LEBANON; SALZBURG SUMMIT

REF: USIA 12095

1. SUMMARY. WIRE SERVICE REPORTS FROM PARIS ON VIEWS OF "AMERICAN OFFICIAL" RE LEBANESE CRISIS CARRIED ON FRONT PAGES OF 3 BEIRUT PAPERS MAY 28. ANOTHER 5 CARRY STORY ON INSIDE PAGES, OFTEN IN CONTEXT OF WORLD OPINION ROUNDUP, BUT REMAINING 5 PAPERS IGNORE STORY COMPLETELY. ONLY TWO PAPERS TO COMMENT -- LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR" AND PRO-LIBYAN "AS-SAFIR" -- TAKE VERY DIFFERENT ATTITUDES, THOUGH BOTH ASSUME THAT "AMERICAN OFFICIAL" QUOTED IS IN FACT SECRETARY HIMSELF. FORMER NOTES THAT "WE MUST CONCEDE THAT DR. KISSINGER SUMMARIZED ALL OUR FEARS FOR US", WHILE LATTER DESCRIBED REPORTED VIEWS AS "ATTEMPTS TO SCHEME AND SOW DISCORD". TWO PAPERS ALSO COMMENT ON FORTHCOMING SALZBURG SUMMIT. "AS-SAFIR" URGES "THOSE WHO ARE BETTING ON AMERICA" TO

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WAKE UP TO REAL AMERICAN POSITION FOLLOWING SENATORIAL

LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD, WHILE PRO-SAUDI "AL-HAYAT"
CRITICIZES WHAT IT SEES AS U.S. ATTEMPTS TO DESTROY ARAB
MORALE IN PREPARATION FOR SUMMIT. END SUMMARY.

2. MICHEL ABU JAWDEH, CHIEF EDITOR OF LEADING INDEPENDENT
"AN-NAHAR", WRITES IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL: "DR. KISSINGER
HAS MADE WORST OF PREDICTIONS REGARDING LEBANON. HE IS
FIRST FOUNDER OF MAJOR POWER TO 'INTERNATIONALIZE' LEBANESE
ISSUE BY TALKING ABOUT IT... OUR FIRST HOPE IS THAT HIS
PREDICTIONS WILL NOT COME TRUE. OUR SECOND IS THAT WE
OURSELVES WILL ... BECOME PRIMARY FACTOR IN
PREVENTING THEM FROM COMING TRUE. WE MUST CONCEDE THAT DR.
KISSINGER SUMMARIZED ALL OUR FEARS FOR US... OUR FEARS
MUST BE TRANSFORMED INTO GENERAL WILL THAT WILL BRING US
OUT OF PRESENT SITUATION..."

3. PRO-LIBYAN "AS-SAFIR" WRITES ON SAME SUBJECT: "STATEMENT
OF SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL, KNOWN TO BE KISSINGER HIMSELF,
IS FULL OF ATTEMPTS AT SCHEMES AND DISCORD. ON ONE HAND,
HE CLAIMS THAT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN LEBANON IS CLASH
BETWEEN LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AND RESISTANCE, WHILE EVERYONE
KNOWS IT IS CLASH FABRICATED BY LEBANESE MINORITY AND
GOVERNMENT HAS NOT BEEN INVOLVED. ON OTHER HAND, HE BRINGS
UP QUESTION OF DISPATCH OF SYRIAN FORCES TO LEBANON,
IGNORING CLEAR TRUTH -- THAT EFFORTS SYRIA HAS MADE TO HELP
LEBANESE SETTLE CRISIS HAVE BEEN POLITICAL, NOT MILITARY."

4. ON SALZBURG SUMMIT, COLUMNIST BILAL AL-HASAN WRITES IN
PRO-LIBYAN "AS-SAFIR": "ARAB RULERS HAVE, IN SPITE OF MANY
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM, AGREED UNANIMOUSLY TO FACILITATE
PRESIDENT SADAT'S MISSION DURING HIS COMING MEETING WITH
FORD... BUT THIS ... HAS RUN INTO BASIC OBSTACLE.... 76
AMERICAN SENATORS ... HAVE SENT MESSAGE OF WARNING TO
PRESIDENT FORD.... THIS POSITION PUTS LIMITS ON HIS FREEDOM
TO NEGOTIATE WITH SADAT AND GIVES HIM REASON TO ANNOUNCE
POSITIONS THAT WILL RELIEVE ISRAEL AND ALARM ARAB RULERS...
IN FACE OF SUCH POSITIONS, ARAB SMOOTHING OF AMERICA'S
WAY LOSES ALL JUSTIFICATION... IT REMAINS ONLY FOR THOSE
WHO ARE BETTING ON AMERICA TO DISCOVER THIS AND MOVE FROM
CRITICISM OF THIS AMERICAN POSITION ... TO ACTION...."
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5. MUHAMMAD 'ANNAN, DIRECTOR OF PRO-SAUDI "AL-HAYAT", WRITES
ON SAME SUBJECT: " 'FOOD WAR' AND 'WAR TO OCCUPY OILFIELDS',
AS WELL AS OTHER INTIMIDATING BOMBS THAT AMERICA HAS SET
OFF AND IS SETTING OFF JUST BEFORE SALZBURG SUMMIT IN HOPES
OF DISTURBING OR DESTROYING ARAB MORALE ... ARE BLATANT
PLOT THAT FRIGHTENS NOT ONE ARAB...."
GODLEY

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